



STATE OF MICHIGAN  
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION  
LANSING

RICK SNYDER  
GOVERNOR

MICHAEL P. FLANAGAN  
SUPERINTENDENT OF  
PUBLIC INSTRUCTION

October 24, 2011

**MEMORANDUM**

TO: State Board of Education

FROM: Michael Flanagan, Chairman

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Mike", is placed over the name "Michael Flanagan" in the "FROM" line.

SUBJECT: Approval of the Criteria for the Income Guidelines for Participation in  
The Emergency Food Assistance Program (TEFAP)

The Emergency Food Assistance Program (TEFAP) is a United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) household commodity program that provides supplemental food to local Community Action Agencies (CAAs) and the Food Bank Council of Michigan (FBCM) members. These agencies distribute the food to over one million households, pantries, and congregate feeding sites. The Michigan Department of Education (MDE) has administered this program since the early 1980s. In Fiscal Year (FY) 2011, Michigan received over \$20 million in entitlement and bonus foods and approximately \$2.9 million in administrative funds for the program. Less than two percent of the administrative funding was retained by MDE.

Michigan established a two-tier set of income guidelines in 1984 to help offset the high medical costs of senior citizens. TEFAP income qualification for households with a member 60 years of age or older is 160 percent of the federal poverty income guidelines and 130 percent for all other households.

The Food Bank Council of Michigan members and the Community Action Agency network that distribute TEFAP are in general agreement that a single guideline of 200 percent would *be an effective way to provide healthy foods* to the many households that continue to struggle economically. This change would be especially helpful for households with under-employed occupants that do not qualify for other assistance programs.

It is recommended that the State Board of Education approve the Criteria for The Emergency Food Assistance Program (TEFAP), as attached to the Superintendent's memorandum dated October 24, 2011.

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MICHIGAN  
STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

Criteria for The Emergency Food Assistance Program (TEFAP)

The State Board of Education has adopted as its goal "Significant and meaningful improvement in the academic performance of all students/children with major emphasis on the persistently lowest achieving schools and students."

To the extent possible, all grant criteria and grant awards will serve to further attain the above goal, and the Board's Vision and Principles of Universal Education.

**PRIORITIES, POLICIES, AND PROGRAMS THAT THESE CRITERIA SUPPORT**

This grant program supports two of the State Board of Education's strategic goal objectives: (1) identify and support practices, systems, and programs that sustain the social, mental, physical, and emotional growth of all students; and (2) assure the efficient and effective implementation of federal and state programs.

**BACKGROUND/PURPOSE OF GRANT**

☐ Competitive      ☐ Formula      ☒ New      ☐ Continuation      (*check all that apply*)

The Emergency Food Assistance Program (TEFAP) is a United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) household commodity program that provides supplemental food to local Community Action Agencies (CAAs) and the Food Bank Council of Michigan (FBCM) members. These agencies distribute food to over one million households, pantries, and congregate feeding sites. MDE has administered this program since the early 1980s as a result of our established relationship with the USDA to provide USDA Foods (commodities). In Fiscal Year (FY) 2011, Michigan received over \$20 million in entitlement and bonus foods and approximately \$2.9 million in administrative funds for the program. Less than two percent of the administrative funding was retained by MDE.

**CRITERIA**

☐ Defined in Statute      ☐ Defined in Department's Approved Grant Application to the Funder      ☒ Proposed by Staff

Income Guideline Criteria will:

- Eliminate a two-tier set of income guidelines that have been in effect for Michigan since 1984.
- Use one set of income guidelines, 200 percent of the federal poverty income guideline, to qualify households for participation in TEFAP.
- Provide healthy foods to many households struggling economically, especially those underemployed households that no longer qualify for other food assistance programs.

**ELIGIBLE APPLICANTS/TARGET POPULATION TO BE SERVED BY GRANT**

Community Action Agencies and the Food Bank Council of Michigan members are eligible applicants. The target population is low income households and households in emergency situations.

**TOTAL FUNDS AVAILABLE**

Over \$9 million in USDA commodity entitlement food and \$2 million in USDA administrative funding is anticipated for FY 2012.

**STATUTE**

In 1983, the Emergency Food Assistance Act was passed and allowed for the distribution of surplus USDA Foods (commodities) to supplement the diets of low-income Americans. Subsequent legislation provided guaranteed funding for food purchases and limited dollars for the administration of the program. It also further defined eligible recipient agencies to include food banks, pantries, and congregate feeding sites as well as CAAs.

**OFFICE ADMINISTERING GRANT/PROGRAM CONTACT**

Cheryl Schubel, Supervisor  
Food Distribution Unit  
Grants Coordination and School Support  
PO Box 30008  
Lansing, MI 48909  
517-241-2597

**The Emergency Food Assistance Program (TEFAP)  
in Michigan  
2012 Income Eligibility Guidelines**

*(Use upon receipt until further notice.)*

Based on 200 Percent of Federal Poverty Income Guidelines

<b>Household Size</b>	<b>Annual</b>	<b>Monthly</b>	<b>Weekly</b>
1	\$21,780	\$1,815	\$419
2	\$29,420	\$2,452	\$566
3	\$37,060	\$3,088	\$713
4	\$44,700	\$3,725	\$860
5	\$52,340	\$4,362	\$1,007
6	\$59,980	\$4,998	\$1,153
7	\$67,620	\$5,635	\$1,300
8	\$75,260	\$6,272	\$1,447
For each additional family member <b>add</b>	\$7,480	\$623	\$144

Updated 10/13/11